(c) if so, the details of the steps Government propose to take against such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Government is aware of news item reported in the Deccan Herald dated 3rd March, 2002. Director(ISM&H), Government of Karnataka has informed that they have taken steps to ensure manufacture of good quality medicines. They have also taken steps to conduct Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) workshop to sensitize the manufacturers to follow the requirements of Good Manufacturing Practices and to ensure quality production. The State licensing authority will take action against those violating the rules.

New Health Policy

4836. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any New Health Policy;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) if not, by when, it is likely to be formulated and implemented;

(d) in what way the new policy is an improvement over the earlier policy; and

(e) the action taken, so far, by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) A New Health Policy, the National Health Policy-2002 has been formulated and announced by the Government. The New Policy covers wide ranging issues relating to health sector such as financial resources, equity, delivery of national public health programmes, health infrastructure, role of private sector, local self-Government, institutions and NGOs education of health care professionals, health research, disease surveillance, urban health, enforcement of quality standards for food and drugs, impact of globalizations on the health sector, etc.

(d) The New Policy was necessitated because of many epidemiological and demographic changes that have since taken place in the country resulting in new challenges such as emergence of HIV/ AIDS and Hepatitis and lifestyle diseases (cardiovascular, cancer, diabetes). This policy makes and explicit commitment of resources to achieve the targets. Further, it limits itself to making recommendations for participants operating within the health sector, unlike the 1983 Policy which gave recommendations spanning the inter-connected sectors as well. The role of the private sector, NGOs and other institutions of civil society has been adequately recognised in the new National Health Policy-2002.

(e) The National Health Policy-2002 has been recently approved by the Government. In addition to being put on the website of the Department of Health, copies of the Policy are being widely circulated to all concerned and an Action Plan for implementation of the Policy is being drawn up. To generate awareness regarding new policy initiatives, mass media campaign is being launched.

National Policy on ISM

4837. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before his Ministry to have a National Policy on Indian Systems of Medicine;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed policy;

(c) whether his Ministry is going to give 100 per cent tax benefit for ISM industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) A policy on Indian Systems of Medicine has been drafted. The salient features of the policy include the following:—

(1) Strengthening the education and research infrastructure of ISM&H.

(2) Encouraging the development of the medicinal plants sector.